

Remarks

Claims 8-13, 16-22 and 47-51 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 8-12 have been amended. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 8-13, 16-22, and 47-51 will be before the Examiner.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion. These amendments should not be construed as an indication of Applicant's agreement with or acquiescence to the rejections of record. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review and acceptance of the corrections made to the drawings and filed with Applicant's last response. Applicant believes that the application currently contains a complete set of accepted formal drawings.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's comments and suggestions regarding the amendments made in Applicant's previous response, particular regarding the phrase "longitudinal plane A-A'" as rewritten in the specification and claims 8-12. The Examiner indicated in the earlier Office Action dated July 26, 2006 that claim 14, which depended from claim 8, would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the previous 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> par. rejections, and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant's previous amendments were an attempt to overcome the rejection by defining the angles formed by the one or more sets of teeth relative to the handle of the device, rather than to the objected to phrase "longitudinal plane A-A'". Applicant also included the limitations of claim 14 into claim 8.

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has objected to this approach to amending the claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's suggestion that the position of "longitudinal plane A-A' " be more clearly defined relative to the device. Therefore, Applicant has amended the specification and claims to reintroduce the phrase "longitudinal plane A-A'", as originally filed, and to more clearly define its location relative to the claimed device. Applicant respectfully submits that

the amendments presented herein place claim 8, and claims 9-13 and 16 that depend therefrom, in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Holliday *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,906). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the above amendments to claims 8 and 9. The cited reference does not teach a set of one or more parallel teeth of decreasing lengths vertically aligned relative to a longitudinal plane that bisects through the head and handle of the device, as stated in the amended claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102(b).

Claims 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday *et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the above amendments to claims 10-12. The Examiner states that Holliday *et al.* disclose plural teeth that form an acute angle with the handle. However, as Applicant stated above, Holliday *et al.* do not teach a set of one or more parallel teeth of decreasing lengths vertically aligned relative to a longitudinal plane that bisects through the head and handle of the device, as stated in the amended claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102(b).

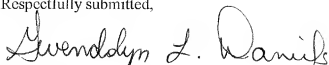
Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday *et al.* '906 in view of Nichols Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,968,535). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because, as stated above, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the device of the invention as embraced by the currently amended claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 17-22 and 47-51 are allowed. Applicant believes that the above-mentioned amendments to claims 8-13 and 16 will place them also in condition for allowance. Therefore, in view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicant believes that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwendolyn L. Daniels  
Registered Patent Agent  
Registration No. 51,594  
Phone No.: 352-375-8100  
Fax No.: 352-372-5800  
Address: Saliwanchik, Lloyd & Saliwanchik  
A Professional Association  
P.O. Box 1450  
Gainesville, FL 32614-2950

/gld